



Flathead National Forest

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Media Release

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Flathead Avalanche Center Welcomes Interim Director Erich Peitzsch

Listening Sessions with Peitzsch Scheduled for December

KALISPELL, MONT. – The Flathead Avalanche Center (FAC) announces that Erich Peitzsch will be the new avalanche center Director for this season. Erich is also the lead avalanche specialist for the USGS/GNP Going-to-the-Sun Road Avalanche Program in Glacier National Park and a Physical Scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey where he studies snow and ice. Erich will work part-time as the FAC Avalanche Director this season and continue with his current job with USGS Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center in Glacier National Park.

Peitzsch said, “I am excited to work in the avalanche center in this capacity, and will strive to provide the backcountry recreational community and professional partners with solid, modern products through the avalanche advisory and educational opportunities. I am very interested in working with existing partners as well as exploring opportunities for new partnerships.”

Before moving to northwest Montana, Peitzsch completed his Masters of Science in Snow Science at Montana State University in Bozeman in 2009. He began his avalanche career as a professional ski patroller alongside the great avalanche hunters at Alpine Meadows Ski Area in Lake Tahoe, CA. When not working in the snow, you might find him dressed up as a superhero chasing his two young sons around, running and climbing in the mountains, and eating copious amounts of ice cream.

Listening sessions have been scheduled for Whitefish and Kalispell to give people a chance to meet and greet Erich and hear about upcoming changes in the program. The sessions will also provide an opportunity for Peitzsch to hear from the public. The Whitefish session is Tuesday, December 3rd from 5:30 to 6:30 PM at the Whitefish Library on 9 Spokane Avenue. The Kalispell session is Wednesday, December 4th from 5:30 to 6:30 PM at the Flathead National Forest office on 650 Wolfpack Way.

New initiatives within the FAC will bring about changes that will gradually be rolled out this season. The FAC will continually evolve this season, and we appreciate any input and feedback you may have. Peitzsch and the FAC staff can be reached at 406.261.9873 or fac.admin@flatheadavalanche.org. Have a safe and enjoyable winter!

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